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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT King Phumiphon

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SECRET

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1. King Phumiphon reportedly became engaged to Princess Sirikit, for whom he has no affection, because he was thwarted in his desire to marry a daughter of Prince Thani Niwat. Phumiphon spoke to Thani in Switzerland in 1949, concerning marriage to his daughter. In accordance with a suggestion by Thani, Phumiphon consulted with the Princess Mother, who, for unknown reasons, refused to sanction the marriage.
2. A telegram from the Queen Mother, Somdet Phra Ratchachonnani Sri Sangwan,* to Prince Kangsit, the Regent, was responsible for the report that Phumiphon had abandoned his trip to Thailand and had returned to Switzerland. The telegram contained a series of guarded questions through which an attempt was made to ascertain the Regent's attitude toward the possibility of the King not returning to Bangkok. One of the questions read, "If the King did not come back to Bangkok, would the Regent be willing to officiate at the cremation ceremonies?" The telegram was copied by a maid in the Regent's household, who gave it to members of the staff of the Prachakorn newspaper. Prachakorn is retaining a copy of the telegram in the event of legal action against the paper for the story.

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* Comment. There seems to be some truth in the report that the Queen Mother is ill.

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